

## **RPOS102M Comparative and International Politics**

Spring 2008 MW @ 2:45 - 4:05 in LC 07

Professor: Victor Asal

Email: [vasal@email.albany.edu](mailto:vasal@email.albany.edu) Phone Number: 518 591 8729

### **Office Hours:**

Uptown: Humanities basement 16, 442-3112 Monday 1230-230 or by appointment

Downtown Campus: by appointment

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Johannes Morrow</b>	<b>Steven Pampinella</b>	<b>Robert Tynes</b>
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:johannesmorrow@gmail.com">johannesmorrow@gmail.com</a>	<a href="mailto:spampinella@hotmail.com">spampinella@hotmail.com</a>	<a href="mailto:rt873361@albany.edu">rt873361@albany.edu</a> ;
<b>Sections</b>	Th. 1145, F 1130, 140	W at 415, Th at 1145, and F at 920	Th 1015, 1145, 140,

**Course Description:** The course is an introduction to the actors, issues and processes of international relations and comparative politics and the theories that attempt to explain them. We will examine several of the central questions that interest political scientists when they explore international relations and comparative politics. Why are there wars? How is peace achieved? What are the implications of anarchy for world politics? How do states and decision-makers choose between conflict and cooperation? How does politics interact with economics on the global scene? Do morality and norms effect international relations and if so how? Why do some countries protect human rights and others not? How does democracy develop? The goal of the course is to create a familiarity of the elements that make up international relations and comparative politics and a critical understanding of the theories that explain them. The course will stress analytical thinking. Each student will be encouraged to identify the theories that he or she feels best explains comparative politics and international relations and to justify those choices. As a University General Education requirement for methods we will also discuss methods used in comparative and IR to analyze politics and students will do an exercise in hypothesis testing in the last paper.

The course is structured with multiple assignments that will convey a great deal of information both in theory and empirical knowledge in a relatively short time frame of a semester. By the end of the course students should: 1) have a strong overview of the theories of international relations and comparative politics, 2) understand how to apply these theories to better understand political interactions, 3) have an understanding of the rudiments of research in comparative politics and international relations.

In order to achieve these ambitious goals a great deal of effort both on the part of the students and faculty will have to be put into the class. This will require a great deal of effort from you and from the instructor and the TAs. If you do not come to class and section and take notes as well as do the reading you will not do well. The lectures and sections are not a regurgitation of the reading and it is assumed that you have read the material and if something is unclear you will ask questions. **If you do the reading come to class and section and put the appropriate effort into the class the professor and the TAs will spend as much time as necessary helping you understand the material. If you do not want to put in this effort-**

# **DO NOT TAKE THIS CLASS. – really**

**On the other hand if you are willing to put in the effort for a challenging class we will put in the effort to make sure that it is worth your time.**

**Ground Rules** This class is challenging and it is important that it remain fair for all the students and that everyone plays on an even playing field. In order to insure that the policies of the class are clear they are spelled out below. If you have any questions about what the policy means please ask before it becomes personally relevant.

**Questions** Education is about learning. This class is about material you have probably not covered before in this context. If you have questions or things are unclear – ask questions. Ask them in section, ask them in lecture and feel free to email the TA's or call (if I am in my office at 10pm I will answer the phone) or email the instructor or TA's whenever to ask for further clarification. When you email me send me your phone number and I will be happy to call you back. This includes any problems you might have about e-reserve or any other technical aspect of the course.

**Attendance:** This is a labor intensive course. The course has a great deal of in-class and collaborative work. You have to come to lecture and to section. While there will be no attendance taken in lecture there will be no make ups of quizzes without a specific medical excuse (Religious observance will be a reason for a make up but this need to be brought to my attention before the student plans on being absent). As far as section goes, each person is allowed one unexcused absence. Any other absence must be excused by the TA before the absence or excused afterwards based on a medical note. Any unexcused absence after the second one will result **in a half grade penalty per absence for the course. Really.** Repeated late arrivals will result in a warning and then also result in a half grade penalty per absence

**Accommodations:** “Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with documented physical, sensory, systemic, cognitive, learning and psychiatric disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation in this class, please notify the Director of Disabled Student Services (Campus Center 137, 442-5490). That office will provide the course instructor with verification of your disability, and will recommend appropriate accommodations

(<http://www.albany.edu/studentlife/dss/Accommodation.html>.” If you wish to discuss academic accommodations for this course please also inform the instructor as soon as possible. In addition, the instructor will make every effort to accommodate difficulties arising from religious observance. You are asked to bring any possible conflicts to the instructor's attention as soon as possible. “Students should not expect that, if they do poorly on an exam or other assignment, to claim, at that time, the need of an accommodation. This statement is to preclude that problem, and allow people with a need for accommodations to be treated fairly and appropriately (Harwood 2003).”

**If you are sick** in order to make up an exam or to remove an absence for section please bring in a note from the **dean of undergraduate studies** (Lecture Center 30 Phone: 518-442-3950) who is responsible for excused absence certification. Without such a note any absence from section or missed exams will count against you.

**Plagiarism** Please familiarize yourself with the description in the undergraduate bulletin ([http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate\\_bulletin/2003-2004/regulations.html](http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/2003-2004/regulations.html)) if you are involved in plagiarism the penalty will be failure in the course and you will be reported to judicial affairs. **In this one regard there are no second chances.** If you are not sure if something violates standards – ask. If you are not sure whether to cite or not to cite – cite. Every Student is expected to go through the following tutorial (<http://library.albany.edu/usered/plagiarism/index.html>) **NOTE – ALL PAPERS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO TURNIT.COM TO CHECK FOR PLAGIARISM** (<http://turnitin.com/static/index.html>)

**Late Assignments.** Unless you have gotten prior approval from a TA through email or have a note from the undergraduate dean, all late work will be penalized. All grade appeals should be made in email and should explain exactly why you think the grading was mistaken. The email should be emailed to me and your TA. Your first discussion about the grade should be with your TA and then with the instructor of the course.

**Office hours** Office hours are your opportunity to get personalized guidance for assignments as well as help better understanding the course material. Take advantage of it. Both the instructor and the TA's will have weekly office hours and will meet with you as long as necessary to help you understand the material. If these times are not good then please email the TA's or the instructor your phone number and we will call you to set up a time that works in order to meet.

**Ombudsperson** “A government official, especially in Scandinavian countries, who investigates citizens' complaints against the government or its functionaries ([www.answers.com](http://www.answers.com)).” One student will be asked to

volunteer to act as an ombudsperson and will meet with me on a regular basis to offer feedback from students in terms of the direction the course is going and bring to my attention any problems with reading, assignments or other material.

**Assignments**

**6 -10 quizzes (bottom two quizzes or two absent quizzes subtracted from total)** Quizzes will be made up of short answer questions or multiple choice questions and occasionally short essay questions. Each quiz will be about 10 minutes and you should plan your answers accordingly. The two lowest grades will be dropped when the grade for this component is tallied but make ups will not be given except in exceptionally extenuating circumstances. Please note the quizzes will focus on whether you are reading and coming to lecture – i.e. it will test whether you are taking notes and remembering the facts and theories from the material covered in reading or lectures. Four quizzes are listed in the syllabus – the rest will be unannounced.

**Short Papers** Short papers provide you with an opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of the material in a less pressured format and for us to provide you with feedback on your application of theory to reality. Each paper should be between 5 pages long. All material should be cited. The first assignment is posted at the bottom of this syllabus.

**NOTE –**

1. ALL PAPERS NEED TO BE TURNED IN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SECTION IN WHICH THEY ARE DUE.
2. IN ADDITION YOU MUST EMAIL A SOFT COPY TO [pos102@gmail.com](mailto:pos102@gmail.com) . TO GET CREDIT FOR THIS YOU MUST PUT THE PAPER INTO THE TEXT OF THE EMAIL. IN ADDITION, YOU MUST PUT THE FOLLOWING INTO THE HEADER: POS102 FALL 2008 YOUR NAME YOUR TA’S LAST NAME AND THE ASSIGNMENT CODE FOR THAT ASSIGNMENT (FOR THE FIRST ASSIGNMENT PUT IN P1 FOR THE FIRST PAPER, P2 FOR THE SECOND PAPER AND P3 FOR THE THIRD PAPER.) for example:  
 POS 102 2008 John Smith Tynes P1
3. FINALLY ALL PAPERS NEED TO BE SUBMITTED TO TURNITIN.COM HERE:  
[http://turnitin.com/login\\_page.asp](http://turnitin.com/login_page.asp)  
 class ID number: 2123605  
 class enrollment password: IR@CP
  - THERE IS AN ONLINE VIDEO THAT EXPLAINS THE PROCESS
  - MORE INFORMATION ON TURNITIN.COM AT END OF SYLLABUS AFTER FIRST ASSIGNMENT or look at this pdf file:
  - [http://turnitin.com/static/pdf/tii\\_student\\_qs.pdf](http://turnitin.com/static/pdf/tii_student_qs.pdf)

**Participation – attendance, reading, active participation –see attendance section above**

**Hypothesis analysis paper** Students will identify a hypothesis, frame it theoretically and test it empirically. There will be a handout that explains exactly what needs to be done in this assignment and we will devote considerable time to this effort. The paper itself will be between 4-6 typed pages long.

**Midterm & Final** The midterm and the final will both be cumulative covering the material in the books, the material in lectures and in sections. Both exams will be made up of combinations of short answer and/or multiple choice questions and an essay. Instructions on the best way to answer such an essay will be handed out prior to the exam.

Out of 1000 points

1. Midterm	200
2. Final	200
3. Participation – attendance, reading, active participation	100
4. Short Paper: Why Iraq War?–	100
5. Short Paper: Is Democracy Possible In Iraq?	100
6. Hypothesis analysis paper	100

7. Quizzes 6 -10 quizzes (bottom two quizzes or two absent quizzes subtracted from total)	200
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**Reading :** All reading is either in the books, on electronic reserve or accessible through links provided in the syllabus. If you cannot find a reading or it will not open you need to contact the TA's or the lecturer to get the material. You will be asked to watch 2 online documentaries from the frontline website.

**Books**

- Mingst, Karen. 2008. 4<sup>th</sup> edition *Essentials of International Relations*, Third edition. W.W. Norton  
A useful review tool (especially for quizzes) can be found at <http://www.wwnorton.com/web/ir/>
- Timothy C. Lim **Doing Comparative Politics: An Introduction to Approaches And Issues**  
Lynne Rienner Publishers 1588263452
- A Newspaper – you should read at least the front page of a newspaper and the relevant international stories every day while taking the course. Here are websites for four newspapers available online for free. The papers suggested here run the gamut from left wing to right wing so if you scan their front pages and editorial sections you should get a good sense of what is happening in the world from a variety of viewpoints.  
[www.nyt.com](http://www.nyt.com)  
<http://online.wsj.com/public/us>  
[www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)  
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/>  
for a digest of newspapers from around the world from dramatically different political points of view see <http://www.worldpress.org/>

**Electronic Reserve**

<http://eres.ulib.albany.edu/courseindex.asp>

**ereserve password pos102asal**

note: students without PowerPoint can download a free PowerPoint viewer from Microsoft here

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=428d5727-43ab-4f24-90b7-a94784af71a4&displaylang=en>

Date and Subject	Reading and Assignment	Section
1. Jan. Wednesday 23	Introduction and review of Syllabus	<b>No section first week</b>
2. Jan Monday 28	Mingst -Chapter 1: Approaches To International Relations Mingst -Chapter 2: The Historical Context Of Contemporary International Relations	Introduction & Expectations and explanation of first writing assignment <a href="http://www.si.umich.edu/~pne/PDF/howtoread.pdf">http://www.si.umich.edu/~pne/PDF/howtoread.pdf</a>
3. Jan Wednesday 30	Mingst -Chapter 3: Contending Perspectives: How To Think About International Relations	<a href="http://library.albany.edu/usered/plagiarism/index.html">http://library.albany.edu/usered/plagiarism/index.html</a>
4. Feb. Monday 4	Mingst -Chapter 4: The International System Last day for students to drop semester length courses without receiving “W’s” is Feb. 5 <b>Quiz A</b> (note: <b>Feb 5 last day to drop class without W</b> )	Prisoner’s Dilemma Game
5. Feb. Wednesday 6	Mingst -Chapter 5: The State	

6. <b>Feb.</b> Monday 11	Mingst -Chapter 6: The Individual	Why Iraq War?– <b>Paper 1- Apply Theory</b> Snyder, Jack. 2004. One World, Rival Theories. In Foreign Policy:.
7. <b>Feb.</b> Wednesday 13	Mingst -Chapter 8: War And Strife For midterm prep <a href="http://www.firstworldwar.com/origins/causes.htm">http://www.firstworldwar.com/origins/causes.htm</a>	
Monday 18 No class		
8. <b>Feb.</b> Wednesday 20	S. Huntington, “The Clash Of Civilizations?” FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Summer 1993, Pp. 22-49 Ajami, Fouad The Summoning , By:, Foreign Affairs, 00157120, Sep/Oct93, Vol. 72, Issue 4 <b>Quiz B</b>	Midterm prep
9. <b>Feb.</b> Monday 25	Carol Cohn “Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals “ <i>Signs</i> Vol. 12, No. 4, Within and Without: Women, Gender, and Theory (Summer, 1987), pp. 687-718 Eres	No Sections
10. <b>Feb.</b> Wednesday 27	<b>Midterm covers up to Feb 20</b> <a href="http://www.firstworldwar.com/origins/causes.htm">http://www.firstworldwar.com/origins/causes.htm</a> e-reserve	
11. <b>March</b> Monday 3	Lim Chp. 1 Doing Comparative Politics and an introduction to methods	How To Compare? Examples and an assignment for the end of the semester - Hypothesis analysis paper
12. <b>March</b> Wednesday 5	Lim Chp. 2 Comparing to Learn, Learning to Compare: An Introduction to Comparative Methods	<a href="http://abcnews.go.com/2020/Stossel/story?id=1500338">http://abcnews.go.com/2020/Stossel/story?id=1500338</a> and <a href="http://instructional1.calstatela.edu/tclim/weblog/stossel.htm">http://instructional1.calstatela.edu/tclim/weblog/stossel.htm</a>
13. <b>March</b> Monday 10	Lim Chp. 3 Thinking Theoretically in Comparative Politics: An Introduction.	Preparation for Dacia Simulation
14. <b>March</b> Wednesday 12	Lim Chp. 6 What Makes a Democracy? Explaining Democratic Transition and the Breakdown of Authoritarian Rule Quiz C	
15. <b>March</b> Monday 17	Dacia Simulation Brooks, David. 2003. BUILDING DEMOCRACY OUT OF WHAT? In Atlantic Monthly: (to be discussed in section)	Issue 2 <b>Paper 2 Is Democracy Possible In Iraq?</b> Debate
16. <b>March</b> Wednesday 19	Dacia Simulation Gerecht, Reuel Marc Ayatollah Democracy.Atlantic Monthly, Sep2004, Vol. 294 (to be discussed in section)	
Monday 24		
Wednesday 26		
17. <b>March</b> Monday 31	Kaufmann, C. 1996. "Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars." <i>International Security</i> 20 (4):136-75 Kumar, R. 1997. "The Troubled History of Partition." <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 76 (1):22-34	- Come to section with hypothesis and outline to discuss with fellow students and TA
18. <b>April</b> Wednesday 2	Hypothesis paper redux Caprioli, Mary. 2000. Gendered Conflict. <i>Journal Of Peace Research</i> 37 (1):51. JSTOR	
19. <b>April</b> Monday 7	Lim Chp. 7 What Makes a Terrorist? Explaining Political Violence.	BaFa BaFA

	<b>Quiz C</b>	
20. <b>April</b> Wednesday 9	Pape, Robert A. 2003. The Strategic Logic Of Suicide Terrorism. American Political Science Review 97 (3):343-361.	
21. <b>April</b> Monday 14	What Makes Terrorist groups more likely to Attack the United States- Asal and Rethemeyer	BaFa BaFA
22. <b>April</b> Wednesday 16	Mingst -Chapter 9: International Political Economy	
23. <b>April</b> Monday 21	Lim Chp. 4 Why Are Poor Countries Poor? Explaining Economic Underdevelopment Hausmann, Ricardo. 2001. Prisoners Of Geography. (Cover Story). Foreign Policy (122):44.	Culture or Structure or Rational Actor debate – watch <a href="http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/divided/etc/view.html">http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/divided/etc/view.html</a> or you can watch it here <a href="http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=6189991712636113875&amp;q=a+class+divided&amp;total=316&amp;start=0&amp;num=10&amp;so=0&amp;type=search&amp;plindex=9">http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=6189991712636113875&amp;q=a+class+divided&amp;total=316&amp;start=0&amp;num=10&amp;so=0&amp;type=search&amp;plindex=9</a>
24. <b>April</b> Wednesday 23	Lim Chp. 8 What Makes a Social Movement: Understanding the Rise and Success of Social Movements. Also watch <a href="http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/tankman/VIEW/">http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/tankman/VIEW/</a> (section 1,2,3, and section 6) -f you cannot access it here you can watch a version of this film here <a href="http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=2300254722104314948&amp;q=tank+man&amp;total=1421&amp;start=0&amp;num=10&amp;so=0&amp;type=search&amp;plindex=0">http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=2300254722104314948&amp;q=tank+man&amp;total=1421&amp;start=0&amp;num=10&amp;so=0&amp;type=search&amp;plindex=0</a>	
25. <b>April</b> Monday 28	Mingst -Chapter 7: International Organizations, Nongovernmental Organizations <b>Quiz D</b>	Review for the Final and discussion of hypothesis papers
26. <b>April</b> Wednesday 30	Mingst -Chapter 10: Globalizing Issues	
27. <b>May</b> Monday 5	<b>Review</b> <b>Discussion – what is theory good for and which theories are good?</b>	No Section <b>REMEMBER The hypothesis paper will be due May 8</b>

**The hypothesis paper will be due May 8**

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**The Final will be between May 11 and May 18 – the specific date will be announced as soon as it is known.**

**FIRST WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT**

**Paper 1: Why Iraq War? Due date** Tuesday February 16 **Format** Typed, double spaced

Your first paper should apply the theory you think best explains the Iraq war. The key effort here is the systematic application of theory to empirical evidence – in this case the 2003 Iraq war. You have plenty of empirical evidence about the war in the Mingst test book. Mingst gives very good examples of how one might apply different levels of analysis to explaining the war (p. 61) and she also applies the theories to the war as well ( 76-80) . You need to focus on one particular theory and cover it more in detail.

REMEMBER THIS IS AN ANALYTICAL PAPER NOT A NORMATIVE ONE. The question you need to answer is:

**Which theory best explains the outbreak of the 2003 Iraq war?**

To answer the question you need to systematically apply the theory to the case of the Iraq war and then address why other theories do not do as good a job. Below I give you an outline for doing this.

Page 1	<b>Introduction paragraph:</b> Which theory is best and why in two sentences – ie boil your argument down to its essence
	<b>Introduction to theory</b> Brief (1-2 paragraph max) overview of theory
2-3 pages	<b>Application of theory to case</b> For each key assumption of the theory, explain what the theory says and present evidence that this case that fits or violates these assumptions. Make sure to explain why the supportive empirical evidence outweighs the contradictory evidence when there is both.
Last page	<b>Comparison to one other theory</b> In one to three paragraphs point out how another theory explains less of the case than your chosen theory.
	<b>Assessment</b> In a final paragraph, restate your argument about why your chosen theory gives the best analytical leverage for this case – citing the material you have presented in the previous pages.

In terms of identifying key assumptions and organizing the application of theory to case you may find the table below helpful.

Theory Assumptions about:	Supportive empirical evidence	Contradictory evidence
Key actor :		
Individual:		
State:		
International System :		
Change:		

**Grading**

Your grade for this assignment will depend on the following:

- Do you explain your chosen theory well?
- Is the paper analytical as opposed to normative?
- Do you apply the theory coherently and provide appropriate evidence?
- Do you explain why this theory fits ‘best’?
- Is your comparison to another theory well done and appropriate?
- Generally, does the paper work together coherently?
- While this is not an English paper you are expected to spell check and meet minimal grammatical standards.

NOTE: your grade will NOT be affected by your choice of theories or the political implications of your analytical choices.

Department of Political Science  
University at Albany  
**Anti-plagiarism Software Handout**  
**David Rousseau**

### **Why Use Anti-Plagiarism Software?**

The emergence of the internet has changed our world forever. The amount of information at our fingertips has increased exponentially over the last decade. Library searches which took many hours to complete in the past can be done in a matter of seconds today. Public and private documents that were difficult, if not impossible, to gain access to in the past are now a mouse click away. While this technological revolution has enhanced the learning process in many ways, it has also increased the amount of plagiarism.

Both student evaluations and faculty feedback has indicated that plagiarism is a growing problem at colleges and universities across the country. Thus, Department of Political Science has begun a program to check student papers using a software program called *Turnitin*. This program is used at over 4,000 institutions in 85 countries, including Binghamton University, University at Buffalo, Adirondack Community College, University of Colorado, Georgetown University, University of Maryland, United States Military Academy at West Point, University of Florida, Lehigh University, Rutgers University, Auburn University, Hofstra University, California State University System, Tulane University, University of California at Los Angeles, and University of California at Irvine.

### **What Is Plagiarism?**

Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional use of another's words or ideas without giving credit to that person. While this includes copying text word for word without the use of quotation marks, it also includes paraphrasing another person's work without proper citation. Plagiarism is a form of cheating that is just as serious as copying another student's answers during an examination or turning in a paper purchased on the internet. Plagiarism is a serious violation of the institutions rules and can result in a student's suspension or expulsion from the University (see the "Standards of Academic Integrity" (<http://www.albany.edu/judicial/CRR2007-2010.pdf>) at the UAlbany Office of Conflict Resolution and Community Responsibility ([http://www.albany.edu/judicial\\_affairs/](http://www.albany.edu/judicial_affairs/)).

Intellectual honesty is a core value of university and the foundation of faculty and student development. Plagiarism undermines the learning process for individual students and creates poisonous atmosphere for the entire community because students come to perceive that hard work and honesty are no longer rewarded. Every college student is expected to be familiar with concept of plagiarism; claiming ignorance does not protect students from the serious consequences of plagiarism (just as ignorance of the speed limit or tax code does not protect violators). All students should review the "Plagiarism Tutorial," which is hosted on the UAlbany Libraries web site (<http://library.albany.edu/usered/tut.html>), in order to ensure that they are familiar with the concept as they begin writing papers.

### **How Do Students Use the Anti-plagiarism Software *Turnitin*?**

Students will submit their papers electronically either through WebCT or directly to *Turnitin*, depending on the faculty member's instructions. The papers will then be compared against billions of web pages, over 10,000 scholarly journals, and over 40 million previously submitted student papers. For each student paper, the program produces a report that measures the percentage of the paper that has been copied word for word or paraphrased without proper citation. The report, an example of which appears below, highlights all text that had not been properly cited and provides a link to the source from which the material was plagiarized.

You can see a demo here: [http://turnitin.com/static/videos/student\\_ppm.html](http://turnitin.com/static/videos/student_ppm.html)

NOTE: the password and account name you create are case sensitive

Once you have created an account and a password you will see a page that looks like this:

Welcome, v A my classes user info user type logout messages help

Now viewing: All classes

**i** This is your student homepage. The homepage shows your enrolled classes. To enroll in a new class, click the enroll in a class button. Click a class name to open your portfolio, you can submit a paper.

[enroll in a class](#)

University at Albany, SUNY: University of Albany, SUNY (Pilot)				
class ID	enter a class	instructor	status	drop class
2123605	<a href="#">pos102spring2008</a>	<a href="#">Asal, v.</a>	active	

Click on [pos102spring2008](#) and then click on the square under the word submit and it will allow you to browse documents on the computer and upload your paper.

Welcome, v A my classes user info user type logout messages help

Now viewing: University of Albany, SUNY (Pilot): pos102spring2008

**i** This is your class portfolio page. To submit a paper, click on the paper shaped submit icon to the right of the assignment. To view the start and due dates and times for an assignment, click on the assignment name.

[class portfolio](#) [peer review](#) [my grades](#) [discussion](#) [calendar](#)

assignment list			your portfolio			
#	assignment	submit	title	submitted	contents	reviews
1	<a href="#">assignment 1</a>					
	12-30-07	03-06-08				